CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN MINERAL KING CONTROVERSY

Mineral King: 15,000 acres in all. 300 acres in valley floor. 7800 ft. elevation

Early in 1965, Mr. Bob Hicks, now with the Disney organization in charge of Mineral King project bought 28 acres of private land in the valley.

March 1965 Forest Service issued a prospectus inviting proposals for a $3 million ski facility. Developer was to build access road.

Disney bid on project. Also Los Angeles stockbroker, Robert Brandt, whose wife, Janet Leigh had campaigned for Gov. Pat Brown of Calif.

May, 1965 At the request of Gov. Brown, an amendment was added to the Calif. State highway bill adding the Mineral King road to the state highway system.

Jan. 1969 Walt Disney was given a three year permit to do studies on Mineral King project.

Sec. of Interior Stuart Udall balked at plan to put road across Sequoia National Park. Against the law. Pressure was put on Udall to approve the access road.

Dec. 1967 Udall reluctantly approved road across park. Demanded strict regulations making it a scenic drive with 35 mile an hour speed limit.

Jan. 1969 Forest Service approved master plan of Walt Disney Productions for a $35 million resort.

June 1969 Sierra Club filed suit.

Dec. 1969 Dept of Justice attorneys appealed to 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sept. 1970 Three judge panel ruled against Sierra Club. Club appealed to Supreme Court.

April 1972 Supreme Court ruled against Sierra Club but gave permission for Club to amend suit.

May 1972 Sierra Club filed amended suit in District Court, San Francisco.

May 1972 Disney company announced cut-back on project.

May 1972 Disney announced change in access plan. Only 10 miles of highway, 14 miles cog-assisted railway.

Aug. 4, 1972 State of California deleted 14 mile section of proposed highway to Mineral King from state highway system.

Dec. 30, 1974 Forest Service submitted Draft Environmental Impact Report on Mineral King project. Report predicts much permanent environmental damage but favors construction of the project. Public comments invited.

February 1976 Final Environmental Impact Study submitted by Forest Service

March 1976 John Krebs announced his opposition to the proposed resort and announced plan to sponsor a bill in Congress to put Mineral King in Sequoia National Park.

April 1976 Senator Alan Cranston announced his opposition to the proposed project and sponsored a bill in the US Senate to protect Mineral King.

Alternatives: Sherman Peak on the Kern Plateau south of Mineral King. Nearer to Los Angeles. Over 9,000 ft. elevation. Vertical drop is 1700 to 1800 ft. Will accommodate 3,000 skiers.

Slate Mountain 25 miles east of Porterville. Paved road to within 1/2 mile. Same elevation and other features as Sherman Peak.

8000 people - per day
108 acres permanent loss
387 additional acres altered

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Sec. of Interior Stuart Udall balked at plan to put road across Sequoia Nat. Park. Against the law. Gov. Reagan was then in office in Calif. Since Disney had backed him financially in his '66 campaign, it is rumored Reagan made a trade with the federal government. Traded valuable northern Redwood acreage necessary for Redwood Na. Park. In return, demanded that the Johnson administration over-ride Udall. Dec. 1967 Udall reluctantly approved road and issued a permit for road to cross Sequoia Nat. Park.

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March 1976 - Environmental Impact Statement completed
March 1976 - John Krebs announced he will submit bill in Congress within a month.

Prepared by Mineral King Task Force of Sierra Club March 1, 1975

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